

AMERICA ENTERS THE WAR

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increasingly important, and after further consultations with Colonel House, Lord Northcliffe cabled us as follows on the 15th August:—

" I learned from House that a very warm welcome will be given to Bonar Law if he can

Northcliffe pay * long enough visit to discuss

ask for financial future of War, and make

Reading or settlement. His coming would be held

Bonar Law a great compliment by U(SA). Recent

British differences are blamed for tardiness in reaching decision on this issue.

If delay continues I think we shall have a sharp conflict with McAdoo. . . .

Bonar Law or else Reading should come as early as possible with full power to act. I can settle the whole matter alone with Crawford, Lever and Blackett, but House demands the presence of a politician.

Enemies of McAdoo complain that, to use an American phrase, He is spending money like a drunken sailor.³ His political future absolutely depends on handling successfully this financial situation, especially loans to Great Britain."

Bonar Law being unable to leave his Parliamentary responsibilities, the Cabinet suggested Reading should be invited to go. Bonar Law cabled Lord Northcliffe as follows:—

" The suggestion that I should go arrived

vesterdav from Lever but it would be
Decision to send Lord *any case* I could not stay
Reading more than a
week or so. I think in view
of your
message the best plan is to arrange if
possible for